

MACAULAY'S THIRD CHAPTER

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it was at that very time soliciting the first establishment of the annual land-tax.¹

It is hardly fair, however, to regard the measure merely as an example of class legislation : it was part of a deliberate national policy for the development of the nation's resources, which both the landed interest and the commercial interest agreed in holding expedient, A similar desire to develop and protect the manufactures and trade of the country inspired the commercial policy of the government, and was generally accepted by all parties. Macaulay gives neither an adequate nor a definite account of British trade and its progress during the period which the History covers. In chapter iii he tells us that the cotton trade was still in its infancy, that Leeds was the chief seat of the woollen manufactures in Yorkshire, and that Norwich was the chief seat of the cloth trade, which was the great staple manufacture of England'. In a later chapter we are told of the efforts necessary to prevent wool from being smuggled out of the kingdom, and of the suppression of the attempt to establish the woollen manufacture in Ireland in the session of 1698. * It was in that age/ says Macaulay, 'believed by all but a very few speculative men that the sound commercial policy \vas to keep out of the country the delicate and brilliantly tinted textures of

southern looms,
and to keep in the country the raw material on
which most
of our own looms were employed/ ² But
nowhere does he
explain how great the volume of this trade
was compared
to other trades. In 1688, for instance, the
woollen goods
exported were valued at about ,£2,000,000
out of a total
export trade of about,£4,300,000. During the
years 1699-

¹ Adam Smith, op. cit. i. 196-7. The bounty was
suspended in famine
years such as 1698.

² VI, 2768-75 (xxiii).